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The Guardian Student Newspaper

Student Activities

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The Guardian, December 4, 2013

Wright State University Student Body

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Practice makes perfect

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Wednesday, Dec. 4

- Raj Soin College of Business Inaugural pledge signing ceremony: 3:30-5 p.m. Rike Hall lobby

Thursday, Dec. 5

- TEDxWomen streaming event: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Discovery Room, Student Union
- Raj Soin Pie A Professor: 1-3 p.m. Rike Hall lobby
- Bolinga Kwanzaa Celebration/Kente Stole Ceremony: 6-9 p.m. Student Union Atrium

Friday, Dec. 6

- Bolinga Film Series: 7-10 p.m. 140 Millett
- Saturday, Dec. 7
- Last day of Fall Semester classes
- CELIA ArtsFair: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Creative Arts Center
- Festival of Carols concert: 8-9:30 p.m. Schuster Hall, Creative Arts Center

Monday, Dec. 9

- Finals Week begins
- Tuesday, Dec. 10
- Transfer and Adult Student Open House: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Student Union Atrium

Thursday, Dec. 12

- The 31st Annual Madrigal Dinner: 7 p.m. Student Union

Saturday, Dec. 14

- Last day of finals week
- Winter break begins
- Fall Commencement: doors open 8:30 a.m., ceremony begins 10 a.m. Ervin J. Nutter Center

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State to fund renovation and construction projects

BENJAMIN VIRNSTON
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Wright State has proposed \$21.6 million in renovation and construction projects for the Dayton campus as part of the State Capital Support Plan announced in October of 2013.

In a recent Student Government meeting Provost Narayanan briefly discussed the plan and WSU's involvement.

"President David Hopkins is serving on the panel for higher education; the primary focus of funding will be on renovation projects," Narayanan said. "We have received the list of requests from all our different campus units and are working feverishly to submit our proposal to the state."

The State of Ohio announced that it would put forth a capital funding budget for fiscal years 2015 and 2016. Approximately \$400 million will be spent on various higher education improvement projects across the state. The funding will be spent on classroom modernization and building infrastructure and expansion, among other projects, according to the co-leader of the WSU Capital Budget Project Team Stephanie Gottschlich.

"Wright State University's President and Provost worked across the university, with deans of all the colleges, with leaders from various divisions and with faculty to identify opportunities for potential projects that met the state's guidelines and focus on deferred maintenance and world-class programs," Gottschlich said. "Wright State has

developed a fantastic list of 12 potential projects for state capital funding, and has received feedback that our projects are interesting and relevant to the state's continued growth and development."

The largest of the proposed projects will cost an estimated \$5 million. This money will go toward renovating classrooms across campus that have been prioritized "based on enrollment trends, technology requirements and most importantly, new learning models that improve learning outcomes," according to Gottschlich.

Another major project being proposed is the transformation of the second and third floors of the Student Union in line with WSU's goal of three major "one-stop gateways." These three gateways will help stu-

dents navigate the major stops along their journey to graduation and beyond, according to Gottschlich.

The recently completed Welcome Center will serve as the first gateway, helping prospective students get started at WSU. The second gateway, including the Student Success Center and the under-construction academic building will improve retention by helping students complete their degrees. Finally, the Veterans, Career and Graduate gateway will serve a number of purposes, including connecting students with outside career resources, supporting graduate students, drawing military-affiliated students and serving WSU's ever-growing international student body.

Other major projects include renovation and modernization

of various campus buildings, deferred maintenance, shared service salt storage and two projects at WSU's Lake Campus.

Vice President of Business and Fiscal Affairs and co-leader of the WSU Capital Budget Project Team Mark Polatajko summed up the impact of the State Capital Support Plan on WSU.

"We are confident that our university's project priorities are perfectly aligned with the Governor's and General Assembly's vision of Ohio's state public higher education," Polatajko said. "Given Wright State's emphasis on transforming and modernizing instructional spaces and responding to workforce development opportunities, State capital investments in these initiatives will enhance our service to our students and community for years to come."

Anatomical gift program yields high numbers

Wright State home to one of the largest body donation programs in the state of Ohio

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WSU's Anatomical Gift Program started in 1975. Since its humble beginnings nearly four decades ago, the program has grown to over 22,000 registered donors, with about half that number still alive and kicking.

The number of donors has grown so much in recent years that the program has had to suspend new registrations, according to the program's director Dan Miska.

"It will eventually be reopened," Miska said. "It will probably be at least three years, but I don't know for sure."

The donors are used to teach human anatomy to students, practice surgical and emergency medical techniques and further our understanding of the human body, according to Miska.

"Our donors are used for anything that can help the medical profession," Miska said. "They're used for a variety of research, medical and educational purposes."

Another way in which donated bodies are used at WSU is the Cadaver Anatomy Procedure (CAP) Lab. Started in 2006, these daylong seminars provide "hands-on experience" to emergency medical services (EMS) personnel "who want to learn more about human anatomy

and basic and advanced procedures used in EMS," according to the Boonshoft School of Medicine Department of Emergency Medicine website.

The next CAP Lab seminars will be held on Dec. 3 and 4.

Respect for the donors is paramount, according to Olivia Booher, a laboratory assistant to Miska.

"All the donors are treated with respect and that's even employed and enforced when we get into that classroom," Booher said. "I can remember our graduate teaching assistant saying 'please before we show you these cadavers for the first time, please remember that these are people, real people with loved ones... You have loved ones. If they donated their body, how would you want them to be treated?'"

Many students are uncomfortable working with the donated bodies at first, according to Miska.

"As they start working with the donors and realize how much they're learning, their comfort level increases," Miska said. "If students are still having a hard time with it, we emphasize that the donors donated their body so that they can learn. Once you explain how helpful it is and how proud the donors are to do this, it usually makes the student more comfortable."

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An Open Letter to The Guardian:

As you're aware, you recently published a bigoted classified ad. We are made to understand from your response piece that you weighed this decision and concluded that it was worth making for two primary reasons. The first is that you felt the ad deserved to be published, simply because it should be considered free speech. This defense basically argues that you couldn't take a firm ethical stance because you were concerned with ethics. The second reason is apparently financial. The Guardian, as we are made to believe, is so desperate for money that it readily exchanged services with a self-proclaimed white separatist tabloid for a total monetary gain of between nine and twenty dollars.

The separatist's name is Olaf Childress and his organization is called Nation of Aryans Against Commie Putrefaction or NAACP. One of many articles authored by Childress and linked directly off of the web address

you published reads, "It's repeatedly charged by the media that the Nazis gassed six million Jews. Who knows whether or not this is a fact? We're given much testimony by the prosecution's so-called eyewitnesses, yet little coverage of their retractions on cross-examination when admitting they fabricated such tales out of whole cloth, for whatever gain or fame."

You responded to your unfortunate miscalculation by giving a statement to the local media. In your statement, instead of admitting that you had suffered a lapse of common judgment, instead of offering a simple mea culpa on behalf of your editorial staff, you stood firmly by the reasoning of your blunder. Therefore, upon reading your recently published written response to the controversy, your second chance to get things right, I was frustrated by what I considered your persistent failure to accept culpability. You pointed to the low volume

of response messages, as if that indicates low disapproval and not simply low readership. You also semi-subtly implied that it was ironic or hypocritical that the university administration would demand that you refund the advertiser's money, after increasing your revenue quota. These, I felt, were incredibly weak arguments from a position of immaturity and stubbornness.

The part that made me take the time to write this letter however, was when you essentially stated (I paraphrase) that the language of the advertisement was pro-straight-white and not necessarily anti-anybody-else. This logic, for anyone interested, can be thoroughly cleared up in a matter of minutes by any of the helpful students and staff at the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center. Or the Women's Center. Or next door to The Guardian's office, in the GLBTQA Resource Room. Clearly, Wright State is filled with people that

Olaf Childress would like to see excluded from the basic rights of freedom and happiness. Yet in every building on our campus, these very people confront such bigotry like scholars, using their discourse, their ideas, and their pens. Our minimum expectation of The Guardian is that it should strive to follow the example set by these students: the oppressed, the marginalized, and some of the most courageous academic achievers among us.

I make a not-so-bold assumption that the majority of our university community (faculty, administration, student body, and otherwise) would even sooner say nothing at all than allow themselves to be used as marketing mouthpieces for an archaic hate group. The disputed advertisement insults everything that we do here because it flies in the face of reason, rationality, free thought, and human betterment. These ideas are all essential tenets governing the

enormous body of work that is achieved at Wright State every day. Therefore, it follows that organizations like the one in question deserve visibility within academia only so that they may be studied for the examples of obsolete and preventable human behavior that they are.

I hope that you will publish this open letter as a demonstration of The Guardian's commitment to honesty and public accountability. Your job as the journalistic eyes, ears, and voice of the student body is to accurately reflect our caliber of integrity. While your lack of proper judgment may only indicate that The Guardian is a human operation, your subsequent refusal to accept responsibility fails to exemplify the way that student errors should evolve into greater understanding.

-Michael Perkins (Student, Wright State University)

Dear Mandy

There is a girl I have the hots for in one of my classes but haven't really talked to her. Is it too late in the semester to strike up a conversation with her and get her number?

-Shy

Dear Shy,

In the age-old advice of Three Days Grace, "It's not too late, it's never too late." Or if you'd rather receive the sage wisdom of Natasha Bedingfield, "Release your inhibitions, feel the rain on your skin."

Either way, it looks like you've got some serious work to do. If you want to get this girl's number, you need to strike up a conversation and then propose a study group. Yes, a study group. Let this be your outlet to getting her number, and don't be shy.

"Hey, let's collect numbers so we can set up a time to study in the library this week," you say.

Bingo. You're in.

p.s. I'm sorry for the music references. I'm so, so sorry.

Send your anonymous questions to Mandy at:
Ask.fm/mandyadvice

Disclaimer: Ask Mandy is satirical and intended for humorous purposes. The views and opinions reflected are those of Mandy, not The Guardian as an organization.

Combating finals stress

ELIZABETH TURNER,
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It always seems to be this way when it gets to holiday time. Things began stacking up; the assignments that looked so far away on the second page of the syllabus seem so ominous. Family starts invading, but at least they bring food with them.

Graduate School applications. Exams. Life in general. STRESS.

So how to deal? There's a lot of variation. But here are my tips. Take em at face value and if they help, great. If not, I'm not liable for your nervous breakdown.

Cry. Yup, I said it. Sometimes you really do need to cry. You'll find that once you start going

it's nonstop and you'll feel the tension leave as the headache comes on but you will feel better. Just make sure you check your mascara before you leave the confines of your room.

Take a break. In the middle of a big assignment? Go ahead, indulge in some Candy Crush. Watch an episode of South Park. Make some Jell-O. Do something absolutely mindless.

Schedule and plan. I know for me personally, I'd take a lot of stress off myself if I had only maybe just written some stuff down, put it in my calendar or at least some permanent marker on my hand. It's never a good thing to forget a deadline or a hot date.

Talk to someone. This one is really important. If you bottle it

up, eventually you will overflow and then it's not just your personal mess, it's all over the table now. I'd rather talk to someone than keep it all in and then yell at someone. Then you gotta deal with that as well. It adds up.

And finally, and I know this one is not something that your doctor would recommend, but just eating something special. Sure, someone else might say "Go run! Exercise!" And if you're into that, great. Unless it's Zumba, I am wholeheartedly not interested. I feel better about eating something special and perhaps a bit unhealthy. It won't kill you.

But if it does, again, not liable. Just a friendly reminder.



President Hopkins to host URS telethon



Photo by Brittany Robinson: Staff Photographer

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The United Rehabilitation Services of greater Dayton will be holding its 35th annual charity telethon on Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on channel 2 WDTN. Wright State President David Hopkins will be hosting the event as co-chairman along with his wife Angelia.

The URS is a service that helps individuals, adults and children who have conditions such as cerebral palsy, down syndrome, autism and other mental or physical disabilities. According to their website the main goal of URS is "Enhancing the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities or other special needs."

"The telethon was started to help bring attention to the clients we have and what URS is all about," said URS Executive Director Dennis Grant.

"Through this telethon we will be sharing stories about some of the clients we have and also their families just help to get the community aware about us and what we are doing here."

The televised charity event is also hoping to help draw in more funds for the center so that they may provide more to the people they help.

"We hope to raise funds for our child center which takes care of medically fragile children," said Grant.

Grant also described the advantages the center has.

"Our center has twice the staff compared to a regular center and have both occupational and speech therapists the child should need. And we need to generate a revenue to help pay for these expenses."

Grant said URS was "very excited to have Dr. and Mrs. Hopkins as the co-chairs for this year's event" and that URS and Wright State have a common goal: to help kids and the com-

munity.

"We are very honored to have them be a part of this," said Grant.

When asked how he got involved with the event, Hopkins said, "They approached me and my wife (Angelia) about two months ago through (Dennis) Grant to be the co-chairs of the event. Wright State has always had a good partnership with URS. It's provided a lot of services to our Office of Disabilities and has given internship opportunities to students interested in that field."

"I would love it if students and staff tuned in Sunday and represent Wright State," said Hopkins. "If they could tune in and make pledges or help any way they could it would be amazing."

For more information about URS or the charity event you can visit the URS website (www.ursdayton.org) or call (937) 853-8404.

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The Ohio House Bill 111 passed out of the House Education Committee on Nov. 19.

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"(It's)...an important step to insure [sic] voting rights for student trustees," Rep. Michael Stinziano tweeted.

The bipartisan bill was introduced in March as a way to give student trustees at Ohio 4 year universities voting rights.

Ninety days after the bill is in effect, state universities must make a decision that does or does not allow students members the power to vote.

Under the bill, student voting cannot be disqualified if a member receives financial assistance from the state treasury or if the student member is a part of the work-study program.

Also, under the bill, if a quo-

rum is present at a meeting, a student member has the right in decision making, according to the bill.

The state governor and senate appoint student trustees from the student governments. Each student is required to serve on the board for two years.

Wright State University currently has eleven trustees, two who are students. If this bill is passed, it will give student trustees an opportunity to vote on decisions that affect all students.

"I'm in support of HB 111, said Kyle Powell, student government director of academic affairs. "I believe this permissive piece of legislation allows the student trustees to vote in the voice of the entire student body."

Fall sports in review

Photo by Andrew Smith, Sports Editor



Photo by Jordan Danko, Contributing Photographer

Photo by Brittany Robinson, Staff Photographer



Photo by Brittany Robinson, Staff Photographer



Photo by Andrew Smith, Sports Editor



Photo by Justin Boggs, Sports Writer



It's tradition: An inside look at performers in holiday productions

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The holiday season is upon us. With it we welcome a return of classic songs, plays, musicals and dances.

"A Christmas Carol" and "The Nutcracker" have returned for the Christmas season and are slated to play at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and the Schuster Center in downtown Dayton, respectively.

Bruce Cromer will reprise his role as Ebenezer Scrooge for over the three hundredth time this season. Cromer graduated

from Wright State's BFA Acting Program in 1979, and has since spent seven seasons with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival playing Hamlet, Romeo and Prince Hal, among others. Cromer is currently a Professor of Theater Arts at Wright State.

"I've worked with theatres all over the country, including the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Santa Fe Stages International Theatre Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, et cetera," Cromer said. "I'm also a Fight Choreographer, with over sixty professional productions."

"Nutcracker" dancer and

sophomore Faryn Kelly looks forward to her roles as Russian and Maid in her upcoming Schuster Center performances.

"There is something particularly magical about holiday productions because there is undeniable festivity and holiday spirit," said Kelly. "Ballet is already magical, but when you have sugarplums and dancing flowers and sparkles, who wouldn't be charmed by that?"

Kelly noted that acting in a professional company was quite different from the Wright State theater. The quality of WSU's productions are at a professional level more often than not,

though the actors are all of similar age.

"With Dayton Ballet, I am performing alongside older and more experienced dancers. It's such an inspiration," said Kelly.

Kelly also has the chance to see what it's like to dance in a larger-scale production.

"At DB (Dayton Ballet), there is a separate person for each task. And at WSU there are students doing many different jobs behind the scenes. I don't think one is better than the other," said Kelly. "Because I'm a college student, it feels right to me in this time of my life to be doing more of the work."

"The Nutcracker" will be performed Dec. 13 through 15 and Dec. 20 through 22.

As for "A Christmas Carol," Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park will be featuring Cromer and his humbug role throughout the month of December.

Cromer said, "I love that families continue to come to see 'A Christmas Carol' year after year as part of their seasonal tradition. One couple came up to me after the show last year and said they met at 'Carol,' married, and have brought their two daughters annually to the show as soon as they were old enough to attend."

Students and faculty to host Madrigal Dinner



Preparing for the upcoming dinner, WSU student Meg Christman rehearses diligently during practice. Photo by Michael Tyler: Photo Editor

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The annual Madrigal Dinner is on the way with four nights of festivities beginning on Dec. 12 and ending on Dec. 15.

The Madrigal Dinner is a feast reminiscent of early English renaissance holiday meals consisting of foods that are associated with the time period, including dishes like "Beefe and Leeke Pie" and "Appyl Almynde Stuffed Turkey Breast," according to the event's website.

The Feast is hosted by the Lord of the Manor, who sits at the head table with another Lord and two Ladies- all played by Wright State University faculty.

There will also be traditional music performed by the WSU Chamber Singers and a music group called Wind in the Woods Early Music Ensemble which plays medieval instruments, dancing by the Tudor Rose Performing Troupe and a court jester entertaining guests throughout the feast.

All the performers are dressed in garb consistent with the time period.

Though for the most part the Madrigal Dinner is historically accurate, the performers try not to let that keep anyone from enjoying themselves.

"It's very light, we don't take it seriously. There's a historical base for it, but we don't worry about being historically accurate at all," said Bill Rickert, assistant provost and the per-

former of the Lord of the Manor. "It would be pretty dull if we tried to be completely accurate. And if we were, there wouldn't be things like silverware and it probably wouldn't appeal to the sort of people that it does."

Rickert also said that WSU's Madrigal Dinner has a faithful following with guests that have attended annually for years.

Kyle Thie, Senior Sociology major, finds the idea interesting but said the cost of tickets is out of his price range. Thie said that he would "consider going if it wasn't so expensive."

Tickets can be ordered through mail, fax, by phone or in person and range from \$35 to \$50 by section, according to the order form on the event webpage.

Exceptions to 'The Great College Experience' in WSU residence halls

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Kyle, a WSU first-year student who had first-hand experience with an unsettling roommate said that the constant bad moods were the first signs they were going to have problems living together.

"The first time I met this kid I knew something bad was going to happen," said Kyle. He could tell something was up when his roommate started to withdraw himself from others.

A couple weeks later he found him in the dorm vomiting from an overdose of cough medicine.

Most cough medicines contain dextromethorphan, and if taken in large doses can cause hallucinations, but can be very dangerous if too much is consumed. That night his roommate was escorted off campus by campus security.

When he returned he did not stay very long before being kicked off campus permanently

for committing his final, third strike.

"This whole experience was very uncomfortable for me," Kyle said. "I'm just worried about the next time I have to live with a roommate."

"Living with people we know nothing about and getting along with them can be rough," said another campus resident, Kley.

One day when Kley was leaving his room he forgot to lock the bathroom door that connected his room to his neighbors'. He later returned to find one of his video games missing from his room.

Knowing that his roommate had not been in there while he was absent, he confronted his neighbors. Only one of his neighbors was in the room and refused to answer the door, but instead talked through the door, telling him to go away and that he was studying.

Kley tried to avoid confrontation, by asking for the game back and saying he would forget it all happened, but he did not let up. Kley decided to call the campus security, and the neighbor was escorted out of the building while the video game was confiscated as evidence.

Campus Couture: Boots from Mom’s closet

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Kirsten Williams intends to be a nursing major and is a sorority member in Kappa Delta. She stood comfortably in a plaid, oversized sweater that she found at the thrift store and brown leggings tucked into a pair of boots she found in her mother’s closet. Her outfit was reminiscent of the equestrian.

“I’m not very fashionable,” Williams said with a laugh. “I just put together whatever I want to wear, and I wear it.”

Williams claimed that her fashion sense changes on a daily basis. One day she could be wearing basic jeans and sneakers, and another day skinny jeans and a girly top.

“I’m bubbly, and I talk a lot when I know what I’m talking about,” Williams said. “I like to meet new people.”

Williams intends to become more involved as her college career continues. She already participates in Relay for Life.

In the meantime, she sits in the Union and studies with friends.

“I love Charlotte Russe,” she admitted. “And I love Maurice’s because I have a credit card.”



Photo by Leah Kelley: News Editor

How much do you lose when you skip?

ADAM RAMSEY
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We’ve all thought about it. We’ve all had those mornings where we felt like our bodies were glued to our bed sheets. We’ve all wanted to stay at home and sleep in, but ever since we crossed the threshold into higher education we get lectures about wasting the money we’ve spent for college.

But what are we wasting, really? What are you throwing away when the fatigue prevails and you stay in bed?

Iris Melendez, associate director of RaiderConnect, said that a single credit hour costs around \$386. With the average class totaling three credit hours, that puts a whole semester class at \$1158. Melendez said that in order to find the monetary value of an individual class, one should divide \$1158 by the number of meetings per semester.

Using this information, the

average cost of a Monday-Wednesday-Friday (MWF) class, a Tuesday-Thursday (TR) class, and a once a week class. Without counting holidays, a single MWF class costs approximately \$26, a TR class costs about \$39, and a once a week class will cost you close to \$77.

When asked if she thought that students’ knowledge of the money wasted when skipping would affect attendance, Melendez simply stated that it depended on the student.

“Every individual is different and every situation is different,” said Melendez.

Daniel Hatfield, Senior Criminal Justice Major, said that he didn’t consider cost a factor when deciding on whether or not to skip class. When told how much an average Tuesday-Thursday class costs, he said the total was not what he expected.

“I didn’t realize it was that much per class,” said Hatfield. “It brings a little insight to it when you look at it that way.”

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Wait nearly over for Chrishawn Hopkins



Chrishawn Hopkins (right) will make his season debut on Dec. 15. Photo by Justin Boggs, Sports Writer

JUSTIN BOGGS
SPORTS WRITER
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Butler is eligible to join the Raiders' lineup on Dec. 15 at Miami University.

It has been 20 months since Chrishawn Hopkins last played in a competitive basketball game. The transfer from

Hopkins was released by Butler head coach Brad Stevens just before the start of the 2012-13 season for a violation of team rules. After the dismissal, Hop-

kins had two years of eligibility and a college education to complete.

Wright State was one of Hopkins' top three choices before he decided to sign with Butler in 2010. There was only one place for Hopkins to go after being dismissed by Stevens.

Because Hopkins was enrolled in autumn courses at Butler last year, he had to wait a full year following the end of last autumn before being able to join the Raiders.

"It has been getting to me lately how close it is getting," Hopkins said. "I am getting anxious. It has been almost 21 months since I have played in a game."

Hopkins, a 6-foot-1 guard, said he has done everything possible to keep in shape during the last 20 months. He has participated in practice with the Raiders this autumn and has played in pickup games.

The two seasons Hopkins played with Butler, the Bulldogs were members of the Horizon League. Though Butler has

moved on to the Big East, Hopkins remains in the conference.

"Playing six games at Wright State, I was familiar with all the guys and all the coaches," Hopkins said. "It was a pretty easy decision for me to come here. I knew all the guys and I knew it was a fun atmosphere here."

Wright State coach Billy Donlon said Hopkins will earn his playing time through how he practices.

"I recognize outside looking in, he obviously has done some things on paper but I have 12 other guys to look at and say 'you earn it in our practices,'" Donlon said. "Chrishawn is doing well. He is a talented player but like anything else, you have to play both ends."

In Hopkins' freshman year, he was with Butler during its run to the NCAA Final Four's title game. He only played four minutes in that game when Butler lost to UConn, but he carries that experience with him to a program looking to reach its first NCAA Tournament since 2007.

"When I first got here, everyone asked me about it," Hopkins said. "I keep my conference ring and my Final Four ring in my room. All of the guys have seen it and want one."

Donlon is glad to receive a player who was coached by someone of Stevens' caliber. Stevens has since left Butler to coach the Boston Celtics.

"There is nobody in sports who has done a better job than Brad Stevens did at Butler," Donlon said. "He has been really well coached. It also helps Chrishawn that Butler was in our league while he played there so he has great familiarity with the league."

Hopkins mostly came off the bench in his freshman season at Butler but became a key player in his sophomore campaign. In 2011-12, he played over 23 minutes a game and averaged 9.1 points per game.

Fantasy Football: Seven year-end awards

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It's been quite a season. The thrill of victory. The agony of defeat. The continued agony associated with trusting those wildly unpredictable projections only to watch the player you actually started get outscored by the player you were thinking of starting.

And now that the regular season has come to an end in fantasy football (depending on your league format), it's time to look back on some of the best, worst and most surprising performances of the year.

(Note: Average Draft Position (ADP) is reflective of ESPN.com's statistics. All yardage and touchdown numbers are current as of Week 13.)

Biggest Bust:

RB C.J. Spiller (ADP: 10.4, 760 total yds., 2 TDs,)

Raise your hand if you invested a top 10 draft pick in C.J. Spiller.

Yep, me too. And how did he repay us? By waiting until Week 5 to score his first touchdown of the year.

Things got so bad for Spiller owners that Fred Jackson, Spiller's 32 year-old counterpart, became the more consistent option on a week-to-week basis.

Most Unpredictable Player:

QB Colin Kaepernick (ADP: 34.0, 2,312 pass yds., 15 TDs, 7 INTs, 376 rush yds. 3 TDs,)

In Week 1 against Green Bay Kaepernick looked like he hadn't missed a beat after coming up only five yards short of a Super Bowl win seven months earlier. He carved up the Packers' secondary to the tune of 412 yards and 3 TDs, good for 30 points in standard leagues.

Kaepernick proceeded to throw for more than 200 yards and multiple touchdowns only twice after his opening weekend explosion. To make matters worse, Kaepernick notched four single-digit scoring outings in 2013, leaving fantasy owners scrambling to the waiver wire.

Biggest Surprise:

TE Julius Thomas (ADP: 83.7, 45 rec., 590 yds., 10 TDs)

Not too shabby for a guy that entered Week 13 tied for 23rd among all flex position players in ESPN standard scoring. It's not a stretch to say you might have been able to snag Thomas in the 10th round or later, depending on how educated your opponents were.

After solidifying himself as one of Peyton Manning's most dependable targets, Thomas became a weekly must-start and viable flex play very early.

Best Draft Day Value:

TE Jordan Cameron (ADP: 129.4, 63 rec., 6704 yds., 6 TDs)

Getting Cameron in the 10th round (or later) turned out to be an absolute steal. It just goes to show that you don't overpay for tight ends. Before Cleveland's quarterback situation became completely unstable, Cameron was a dependable play, achieving 50-plus yards and three receptions seven times from Week 1 to Week 8.

MVP:

QB Peyton Manning (ADP: 8.6, 4,125 pass yds., 41 TDs, 9 INTs, 1 rush TD)

When the dust settles, scientists will discover that Peyton Manning is actually a cyborg sent back in time to throw touchdown passes and win fantasy leagues.

Manning threw for over 300 yards and two or more touchdowns nine times this season- the same amount of times he scored 20 or more fantasy points in a game.

Spending a first round draft pick on a quarterback does not often work out in the long run, due to overall depth at the position, but in Manning's case, owners were well-justified in grabbing the future hall of famer early.

Highest Stock Rise:

QB Nick Foles (ADP: Undrafted, 1,791 yds., 19 TDs, 0 INTs, 39 car. 145 yds., 2 TDs)

Everyone will remember where they were on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013. That's the day now starting quarterback Nick Foles took the fantasy world by storm, tossing an NFL-record tying seven touchdowns against the Oakland Raiders. There is little question who the Eagles' starter is now.

Since that faithful day, Foles has yet to throw a pick and will remain a viable fantasy starter going into the playoffs. Chip Kelly's system seems to serve Foles well and if the second-year signal caller continues on his current trajectory, Foles could go from undrafted to a 7th or 8th round pick in 2014.

Biggest Draft Day Risk That Actually Paid Off:

TE Rob Gronkowski (ADP: 49.4, 37 rec. 560 yds. 4 TDs)

Drafting Gronkowski meant taking a big leap into a fantasy football pool with unknown depth. We all knew the hulking pass catcher would return to action, but it was always a matter of when. Unfortunately, if you were dead set on taking Gronk, it required investing a fourth or fifth round pick.

Once he finally took the field in Week 7 against the New York Jets, however, Gronk produced immediately. After only his sixth game this season, Gronk ranks as the 11th best fantasy tight end. Extrapolate his numbers across the entire season, and Gronk finishes with over 98 rec. for 1493 yards and almost 11 TDs.

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Women's Basketball: WSU 2-1, 7-2 overall after Gulf Coast Showcase

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Playing three games in three days often will test the physical conditioning and mental toughness of many teams.

Wright State completed the three-day gauntlet during Thanksgiving weekend in Estero, FL. The Raiders defeated previously unbeaten North Carolina State (99-90) and highly-ranked mid major opponent James Madison (79-77). Guard KC Elkins sank the game-winning three-pointer to give the Raiders the win over the Dukes as time expired.

In between both wins, WSU suffered its second loss of the season in a 69-62 defeat to Middle Tennessee State. The 62 points the Raiders scored was the lowest output in the team's first nine games.

James, Mingo help add 1-2-3 punch to Raiders' offense

The Raiders' heavily-touted backcourt has made its presence known in the early 2013 season.

Starters Kim Demmings, Ivory James and Tay'ler Mingo are averaging nearly 57 points per

game combined.

The multi-faceted attack is a stark change from a year ago when Demmings accounted for almost 30 percent of Raiders' points.

"I think that we all think it's important to be that something extra. I think everybody strives to do that, so that's why it's so different every time," Mingo said.

Up Next: Raiders prepare for titanic clash with Cardinals

Of all the non-conference opponents on WSU's schedule this

season, one game stood apart from the others: this Saturday's clash with No. 7-ranked Louisville.

Last season, the Cardinals nearly completed a historical run to a national championship, before falling to UCONN in the title game. Along the way, Louisville defeated national powerhouses Purdue, Tennessee, Cal and heavy tournament favorite Baylor.

Louisville returns several of last year's starters, including 2012 ALL-BIG EAST selection Shoni Schimmel.

Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. at the KFC YUM! Center in Louisville.

Indoor track season begins Friday

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After a week of Thanksgiving festivities, the Wright State track team is set to begin their season Friday at the Eagle Holiday Meet in Ypsilanti, MI.

The meet will be an all-day event starting Friday going into Saturday. Saturday will also open up the Purple and White Invitational in Columbus.

Last season the Raiders took first out of ten teams at the Purple and White Invitational with a total of 258 points, a strong start to the season that WSU looks to repeat.

The 500 meter run that took place at the invitational was a record setting event where now graduate Maggie McPherson set a school record time 1:20:28. The Raiders also did well in the 1000 meter run at the invitational.

Training has been taking place in the Nutter Center, McLin Gym and Fairborn High school when the weather allows.

Last season the Raiders took 4th place in the Horizon Championships and seek to break the top three this spring.

Top returners for the Raiders that craft up a blend of vigorous upperclassman and underclassman include: seniors Kylie Kopp and Maria Harrison, juniors Sarah-Ann Blount and Rachel Janson, and sophomore Natassia Roberts.

Kopp scored at Horizon in the heptathlon, 100 hurdles, long jump and relays while Harrison scored in shot put and hammer throw.

Blount scored in the heptathlon, 100 hurdles and 4 x 100 relays and Janson scored in steeplechase. Roberts scored in shot put.

The team will take the remaining month of December off after the Purple and White Invitational on Saturday and will not begin competition until the Buckeye Classic on Friday, Jan. 10 in Columbus.

Griffin tries to rally the defense



Guard Kendall Griffin (15)

Photo by Kayla Helm: Contributing Photographer

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In recent weeks, Wright State coach Billy Donlon has been pleading with his team to play better defense.

But there is one player Donlon has confidence in his defending.

Junior guard Kendall Griffin is not the type of player expected to score double figures every night. Thus far, he has only reached double figures twice in nine games.

Though Griffin is seventh on

his team in scoring, averaging 7.1 points per game, he is one of the most valuable Raiders.

"The strength of Kendall is what he does defensively for us," Donlon said.

Griffin at times was tasked last Saturday with guarding Western Carolina's Trey Sumler who was the reigning Southern Conference Player of the Week. Between Griffin and fellow guard Reggie Arceneaux, they kept Sumler below his season average and well below the 33 points Sumler put up a week earlier versus Niagara.

Since Wright State is a team that likes to run man-to-man defense, it is a regular sight to see Griffin going one-on-one with the opposing team's best offensive player.

"I just try to be aggressive and take them out of what they want to do, whether they're a four and wanting to post up or if are a guard and they want to take it off the dribble," he said. "I just try to take them off what they want to do. Sometimes that is just limiting their touches. And that is me playing a little more on my man and have my teammates help me."

Donlon used an example of Griffin's performance at South Alabama on Nov. 23 when Griffin guarded Antoine Allen who came off a 14-point performance the night before.

"Griffin held their best shooter to one shot attempt," Donlon said. "It is not like he only made one, Allen only got one shot off him. When you can eliminate a guy who can get between nine and 13 points a game and completely take him out, you're doing something."

Griffin said with rule changes in the NCAA regarding touch fouls, it has made things more difficult for players to defend.

"It has shown in the numbers the teams have been able to put on us," he said. "We have been a team that has held good offensive teams to under 60 points and now teams are scoring 70 or 80 on us. That is rare. It is a change but we're adjusting."

Raiders remain 4-0 at home

The Raiders are 2-1 in the last week winning a pair of home games over Alcorn State and Western Carolina.

WSU lost its latest contest Monday evening at Morehead State 74-69. Monday was the first time this year the Raiders failed to reach 70 points.

The loss dropped WSU to a 5-4 record on the season.

WSU's bench kept the Raiders in the game scoring 46 points. WSU guard Miles Dixon and forward JT Yoho were the only two Raiders in double figures as both came off the bench. Yoho had a team-leading 18 points.

Up next: Raiders begin four-game road stretch

The Raiders started a four-game road trip Monday at Morehead State. They continue the trip at North Carolina A&T tomorrow before playing VMI Saturday.

The Raiders played both North Carolina A&T and VMI last season in the Nutter Center. The Raiders won both games comfortably. North Carolina A&T will be looking for its first win over a Division I opponent this season.

WSU is 0-4 on the road this year and the Raiders' only win away from the Nutter Center was against Houston Baptist in a neutral site game in Alabama.

THE PROVINCE

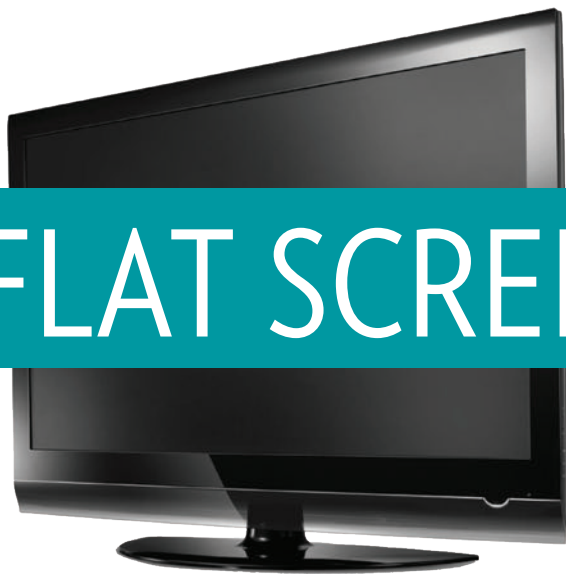


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